

DCI/ICS 85-4018  
4 February 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

FROM:

STAT

SUBJECT: Request for Review of Draft NTISSI entitled "Guidelines for the Conduct of COMSEC Monitoring Activities"

1. Attached is a draft of a proposed National Telecommunications and Information Systems Security Instruction (NTISSI) No. 4000, entitled "Guidelines for the Conduct of Communications Security (COMSEC) Monitoring Activities" which has been distributed for review and comment prior to being forwarded to the Attorney General. Upon approval by the Attorney General, it is proposed that the NTISSI be issued by the National Manager.

2. Based on my telephonic discussions with you on this matter, request your review and comments on the attached draft by COB 8 February 1985. A response signed by the NTISSC member is requested by 15 February 1985. I propose to consolidate your comments and draft a proposed DCI and D/CIA coordinated response by COB 11 February 1985. I propose to provide final staffing and coordination through you.

3. The following are my initial thoughts on the draft based on my initial screening. Please provide comments on these areas:

- o Paragraph 1, References. Is this list comprehensive? What do these references say about COMSEC monitoring relative to the proposed draft? Since paragraph 3c generally addresses the DCI's responsibility in the TSCM area, shouldn't the references identify such documents? What other references should be included?
- o Paragraph 5b under Policy specifies some very stringent notification procedures for monitoring contractor telecommunications including "... first obtaining the express written approval of the chief executive officer . . . and the written opinion of the general counsel of the department or agency which is conducting the monitoring. . . ."



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- o Paragraphs 5f and 8b(2) address the Policy and Responsibilities related to COMSEC monitoring activities of government departments and agencies. These paragraphs state a different policy and responsibility for government monitoring activities than that for contractor facilities. Whereas the agency performing the monitoring of a contractor facility must ". . . first obtain . . . the express written approval of the chief executive officer . . . ." There is no such requirement for government departments or agencies (i.e., paragraph 8b(2) states: ". . . no monitoring shall be performed without first providing timely notification of such monitoring to the heads of departments or agencies to be monitored"). Should the same approval policy apply to government departments and agencies as that stated for government contractors? If so, what rationale should be used to request this modification to the proposed NTISS?

4. One additional area you might consider is paragraph 5d, Policy regarding procedures for the disposition of information derived from COMSEC monitoring activities which relate to a significant crime. The wording now indicates that such information derived from the monitoring of government telecommunications is covered by this policy. Should the word government be deleted so that this policy covers all monitoring activities that are authorized under this proposed NTISS?

5. Request your comments by COB 8 February 1985.



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Attachment: a/s

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SUBJECT: Request for Review of Draft NTISSI entitled "Guidelines for  
the Conduct of COMSEC Monitoring Activities"

Distribution:

Action:

1 - C/IHC  
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**NTISSC**

NATIONAL  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
AND  
INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
SECURITY  
COMMITTEE

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

NTISSC 6-/1  
18 January 1985

28 JAN 1985  
Comm  
LUCAS

**MEMORANDUM TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND  
INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: Draft National Telecommunications and Information  
Systems Security Instruction (NTISSI) No. 4000,  
"Guidelines for the Conduct of Communications Security  
(COMSEC) Monitoring Activities"**

1. Enclosed is draft NTISSI No. 4000, subject as above. It replaces National COMSEC Instruction No. 4000A, same subject, dated 9 February 1984, and has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of National Security Decision Directive No. 145, National Policy on Telecommunications and Automated Information Systems Security, dated 17 September 1984.

2. Request you review the Enclosure and provide comments to the undersigned by 15 February 1985. My staff POC is [redacted] NSA (S081), 972-2509s/688-6130b.

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3. Following receipt of comments, the draft NTISSI will be forwarded to the Attorney General. Upon Attorney General approval, the NTISSI will be issued by the National Manager.

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[redacted]  
✓ Executive Secretary

Encl:  
a/s

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